

February 13, 2013

Transportation Committee
The Honorable Andrew Maynard
The Honorable Antonio Guerrero

Re: Proposed S.B. No. 103

Mr. Chairmen and members of the committee:

I am Matthew Murray from Westport and here to speak about S.B. Number 103, LCO number 531 AN ACT REQUIRING BICYCLISTS TO RIDE SINGLE FILE ON A PUBLIC ROAD and support it moving forward to become law.

It already has the support of the Simsbury Chief of Police and the State's Attorney office, too. This law is modeled after the current law in New York State.

Since implementation of the requirement for a motorist to be at least three feet away from bicyclists, it makes things very difficult for driving on many of the small and tight roads in our state. I agree that motorists need to keep a safe distance from bicycle traffic, but there now must be allowances for all vehicular traffic. I appreciate the desire of bicyclists desire ride two abreast to enjoy their ride, it is no longer practical, from a safety perspective. There just is not the room for a casual "Tour du France" pelotons on our roads. Even the small cycling groups that use our roads, riding two or more abreast, create hazards for pedestrians, motor vehicle traffic, and themselves. Sadly many cyclists already ignore many elements CGA 14-286b.

The overall goal is safety for all members of the public both on bicycles and in cars. I do not know how anyone can be opposed to a positive outcome for all, unless it comes from a biased perspective. Please realize that I consider this bill important enough to take a day off and speak before you at our Capital for the first time as a life-long resident of Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Murray", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Murray
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